

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A retaining apparatus for retaining a monitor against a partition protecting the monitor from a harsh environment, said retaining apparatus comprising:

a support pad for supporting a portion of the monitor upon the partition; and

a retaining mechanism for retaining the monitor against the partition.

2. The retaining apparatus for retaining a monitor against a partition of claim 1 further comprising a second support pad for supporting a portion of the monitor.

3. The retaining apparatus for retaining a monitor against a partition of claim 2 wherein each support pad is affixed to the partition.

4. The retaining apparatus for retaining a monitor against a partition of claim 3 wherein the monitor is supported on a bottom portion of the monitor by the support pads.

5. The retaining apparatus for retaining a monitor against a partition of claim 1 wherein the monitor is a flat panel monitor.

6. The retaining apparatus for retaining a monitor against a partition of claim 1 wherein the retaining mechanism is a retaining strap.

7. The retaining apparatus for retaining a monitor against a partition of claim 6 wherein the retraining strap includes two strap segments affixed to the partition.

8. The retaining apparatus for retaining a monitor against a partition of claim 7 wherein the two strap segments are attached to each other by a fastener, the two strap segments wrapping around opposing sides of the monitor.

9. The retaining apparatus for retaining a monitor against a partition of claim 1 wherein the retaining strap is adjustable in length to accommodate the size of the monitor and allow the monitor to be securely held against the partition.

10. The retaining apparatus for retaining a monitor against a partition of claim 1 wherein the support pad is adjustable horizontally to accommodate monitors of various sizes.

11. An Operator Interface Terminal (OIT) for providing a man-machine interface between an operator working in a harsh environment and a control computer and monitor in a conditioned environment, said OIT comprising:

a front panel having a perimeter edge;

means for mounting the front panel on a front side of a partition and sealing the front panel around the perimeter edge, said partition having a front side in the harsh environment, a back side in the controlled environment, and an aperture therein that is covered by the front panel;

at least one interface device attached to the front panel that is accessible by the operator for providing inputs to the control computer;

means for connecting the interface device to the control computer through the aperture in the partition;

a support pad affixed on the back side of said partition, said support pad supporting a bottom portion of the monitor; and

means for retaining the monitor against said partition.

12. The OIT of claim 11 further comprising a second support pad for supporting a portion of the monitor.

13. The OIT of claim 12 wherein the monitor is supported on a bottom portion of the monitor by the support pads.

14. The OIT of claim 11 wherein the retaining means is a retraining strap.

includes two strap segments affixed to said partition.

15. The OIT of claim 14 wherein the retaining strap includes two strap segments affixed to said partition.

16. The OIT of claim 11 wherein the retaining strap is adjustable in length to accommodate the size of the monitor and allow the monitor to be securely held against the partition.

17. The OIT of claim 11 wherein the support pad is adjustable vertically to accommodate monitors of various sizes.

18. A retaining mechanism for use on a Operator Interface Terminal (OIT) providing a man-machine interface between an operator working in a harsh environment and a control computer and monitor in a conditioned environment, said retaining mechanism comprising:

a partition on the OIT providing a barrier between the harsh environment on a front side of the partition and the conditioned environment on a back side of the partition;

at least two support pads mounted to the back side of the partition, the support pads supporting a bottom portion of the monitor; and

a retaining strap affixed to the back side of the partition, the retaining strap holding the monitor against the partition.

19. The retaining mechanism of claim 18 wherein the retaining strap is adjustable in length to accommodate monitors of various sizes.

20. The retaining mechanism of claim 18 wherein the retaining strap includes two strap segments, each strap segment connectable to the opposing strap segment by a fastener.